

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kramer (Reg. No. 41,541), the undersigned, on September 26, 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims of the invention have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A network management connectivity verification framework comprising:

a connectivity verification server to perform unattended connectivity verification jobs; and

a connectivity verification application to:

define connectivity verification jobs capable of verifying connectivity in the network relating to at least Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects within a given containment hierarchy for the network,

control the connectivity verification server to perform the defined connectivity verification jobs, wherein the performing generates at least one of connectivity verification results,

display the connectivity verification results,

receive a user-input specification of ~~at least one~~ a connectivity verification threshold ~~[[;]]~~ ,

compare the connectivity verification results to the specified connectivity verification ~~thresholds~~ threshold,

generate an alarm when the comparison shows that at least one of the connectivity verification results has reached the specified connectivity verification threshold,

identify Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects within the containment hierarchy affected by the connectivity verification results associated with the alarm, and

display the identified Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects.

3. (Currently Amended) The connectivity verification framework of claim 1, wherein the connectivity verification application further provides a display of the connectivity verification results.

4. (Currently Amended) The connectivity verification framework of claim 1, wherein the results of each connectivity verification job ~~may be~~ **are** compared against a connectivity profile, a deviation from the connectivity profile being used to raise ~~an~~ **the** alarm.

6. (Currently Amended) A method **implemented at least in part by a connectivity verification server for** ~~of~~ creating a network connectivity verification test, comprising the following steps:

defining a connectivity verification job capable of verifying connectivity in the network relating to at least Layer-2 and Layer 3 objects within a given containment hierarchy for the network;

controlling ~~a~~ **the** connectivity verification server to perform the connectivity verification job wherein the performing generates at least one **of** connectivity **verification** results;

displaying the connectivity verification results;

receiving a user-input specification of ~~at least one~~ **a** connectivity verification threshold;

comparing the connectivity verification results to the specified connectivity verification threshold;

generating an alarm when the comparison shows that at least one of the connectivity verification results has reached the specified connectivity verification threshold;

identifying Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects within the containment hierarchy affected by the **connectivity** verification results associated with the alarm; and

displaying the identified Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects.

14. (Currently Amended) A method **implemented at least in part by a connectivity verification server for** [[of]] performing a network connectivity verification test in a network management context comprising the following steps:

scheduling a connectivity verification process, the process capable of verifying connectivity in the network relating to at least Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects within a given containment hierarchy for the network;

receiving a user-input specification of ~~at least one~~ **a connectivity** verification threshold;

performing the scheduled connectivity verification **process** to generate a connectivity verification result;

comparing [[a]] **the** connectivity verification result with the user-specified connectivity verification threshold;

generating an alarm when the comparison shows that the connectivity verification result has reached the specified connectivity verification threshold;

identifying Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects within the containment hierarchy affected by the **connectivity** verification results **result** associated with the alarm; and

displaying the identified Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of performing the network connectivity verification test of claim [[14]] **15**, further comprising the following step:

displaying at least one IP object based on one of [[a]] **the** connectivity verification job and [[a]] **the** connectivity verification result.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

4. Claims 1-7 and 9-20 (renumbered as claims 1-19) are allowable over the prior art of record.

5. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip B. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip B Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2155
Sept 26, 2008